

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 09735 241553Z

43

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 CCO-00 OTPE-00

FCC-01 OC-06 USIA-06 BIB-01 ACDA-07 PM-04 L-03

NASA-01 NSC-05 ERDA-05 OES-06 /069 W

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P 241421Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7523

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TSPA, CO, BR

SUBJECT: AIDSAT DEMO

REF: BOGOTA 9703

1. WE RECEIVED SEPT 23 THE COLOMBIAN FONMINISTRY  
NOTE DECLINING OUR OFFER FOR THE SATELLITE DEMONSTRATION  
FOR THE REASON THAT COLOMBIAN PERSONNEL AFFECTED ARE  
PREOCCUPIED WITH A COLOMBIAN SATELLITE PROGRAM (REFTEL).

2. THE FONMIN NOTE RAISES A COMPLICATING ISSUE,  
HOWEVER, IN THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH WHICH WE HAVE  
TRANSLATED FROM THE ORIGINAL: QUOTE IN ACCORDANCE  
WITH THE PROPOSAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA EXPRESSED  
BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS INDALECIO LIEVANO  
BEFORE THE 30TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS,  
THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT DOES NOT HAVE ANY OBJECTION  
WHATSOEVER TO THE TRANSIT OF THE SATELLITE NUMBER ATS-6  
OVER COLOMBIAN TERRITORY IN GRAVITATIONAL FLIGHT  
.... TOWARD 130 DEGREES WEST LONGITUDE, A POINT OVER  
WHICH THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA DOES NOT EXERCISE THE  
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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 09735 241553Z

THIRD DIMENSION OF ITS NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY. UNQUOTE.

3. AS INDICATED IN REFTTEL, COLOMBIANS IN THEIR NOTE ARE AIMING TO SET A PRECEDENT THAT WOULD ENFORCE THEIR TERRITORIAL CLAIMS EXTENDING INTO OUTERSPACE, BY TRYING TO MAKE IT APPEAR THAT WE REQUESTED PERMISSION FOR TRANSIT OF THEIR CLAIMED "TERRITORY" AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, EMBASSY'S NOTE ON THE DEMONSTRATION CAREFULLY AVOIDED ANY SUCH REQUEST OR REFERENCE TO THAT ISSUE.

4. IMMEDIATELY AFTER RECEIVING THIS NOTE, WE CONTACTED UNDERSECRETARY FONSECA BY PHONE AND MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

USG OFFER OF SATELLITE DEMONSTRATION WAS GOOD-WILL GESTURE, CONSONANT WITH OUR DESIRE TO ASSIST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SUCH AS COLOMBIA, ESPECIALLY THROUGH SHARING BENEFITS OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY. EMBASSY IS SORRY THAT GOC UNABLE ACCEPT OUR OFFER ESPECIALLY BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THE PERSONNEL AND LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS CITED IN THEIR NOTE MIGHT HAVE BEEN OVERCOME THROUGH CONSULTATION WITH US. EMBASSY IS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT THE MINISTRY IN DECLINING OUR OFFER HAS GONE ON TO RAISE A COMPLICATED AND SENSITIVE ISSUE RELATING TO OUTER SPACE AND HAS APPARENTLY TRIED TO MAKE IT SEEM AS IF OUR NOTE OFFERING THE DEMONSTRATION CONSTITUTED SOME RECOGNITION OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE GOC POSITION ON THAT ISSUE. WE SAID WE RECOGNIZED THAT THE ISSUE IS IMPORTANT TO THE GOC BUT FELT THAT FOR THIS VERY REASON COLOMBIANS SHOULD NOT HAVE APPROACHED US ON IT IN THIS INDIRECT AND QUESTIONABLE MANNER. WE ALSO TOLD FONSECA THAT THE EMBASSY WOULD BE REPORTING THE TEXT OF THE MINISTRY'S NOTE TO THE DEPARTMENT AND THAT WE RESERVED THE RIGHT TO COMMENT FURTHER ON IT.

5. FONSECA SAID HE WAS NOT SURPRISED BY OUR REACTION BUT ADDED THAT HE THOUGHT MINISTRY WAS UNLIKELY TO PURSUE THE ISSUE OF THE GOC CLAIM WITH US BILATERALLY AT THIS TIME.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: UNLESS THE DEPT WISHES US TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BOGOTA 09735 241553Z

LET THE MATTER REST AT THIS POINT FOR NOW, WE WILL NEED INSTRUCTIONS REGARD THE POSITION WE SHOULD TAKE ON THE TERRITORIAL OUTER SPACE CLAIM PUT FORTH BY THE GOC.

DREXLER

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## Message Attributes

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**Draft Date:** 24 SEP 1976  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Film Number:** D760361-0477  
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**Subject:** AIDSAT DEMO  
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